

TWILIGHT BOOK REVIEW

Fair warning: if you know nothing about the story of this book, I don't want to be the one to spoil it for you. It's kinda hard not to know the "twist" by now because of the film marketing and word-of-mouth, but I'm a purist, so there you go.

It's really strange what's happening to me with *Twilight*. I read the book and didn't quite like it, saw the film and it didn't appeal to me, and yet I kind of have a positive feeling about the whole thing. I guess it's the vampire subject which has always intrigued me. When I was way younger I wrote some short tales about vampires, some of which explored the idea of male vampires falling in love with human women and lusting for their blood but not wanting to hurt them.

I'm not saying they stole my idea (it came out like that didn't it) but rather that it's an interesting notion which has always intrigued me and got me all excited when I heard that's what this was about. I had also heard that copies were being sold like hotcakes, but that could mean a lot of things. Since sequels were being published, and this could become the next Harry Potter franchise, I decided to read the book beforehand so as to avoid the unpleasant Harry Potter experience which had me more or less hating the films before I started reading the books and realized they were actually pretty good—the films got better as time went by, thankfully.

The book was gloomy and depressing on the one hand, and quite exciting and encouraging on the other. I can easily understand why teenage girls are head over heels for this, as every High School girl's dreams come true in it, with the most interesting and handsome guy in class preferring the protagonist for no apparent reason, and the girl being, in general, quite ordinary, or so she thinks.

It's more or less the same as it went with Potter, who was an outcast until all of a sudden he was an idol, though he didn't know why. In Potter's case, however, the boy didn't fully enjoy his "destiny". On the other hand, Bella, a girl from Phoenix who was something of a persona non grata over there, is perfect for the murky environment of Forks, Washington, where the sun rarely shines and it rains most of the year and the weirdest guy is the coolest and every girl who could be popular is outshined by the palest and dorkiest who just arrived in town.

As narrated by Bella, this is an exciting adventure though most of what happens is more or less quiet on the outside, but meaning a whirlpool of feelings and emotions for the central character. The core is her relationship with Edward, that wickedly weird guy who little by little shows his powers and weaknesses to Bella for which she ends up concluding that there's no other explanation than his being a vampire. His whole family is comprised by vampires, as it turns out, but they're rather on the Casper side of the specter, since they're friendly (bad joke).

It's all more or less safe, except that Edward thirsts for Bella's blood like he never did before for anyone else's, so it's a constant matter of the high stakes they're playing for the sake of being together—it is, however, and to some relief, clarified that vampires are not impotent, but in fact, one can presume, quite potent; in other words, Edward is the perfect guy in any imaginable way, which makes this an irresistible read for teenage girls, who are too young to see that his greatest defect, sterility, is a big deal.

Though the story focuses on the high-risk supernatural romance, action is setup for a final act that sadly becomes anticlimactic and even makes the preface of the book, cleverly written as a flash-forward into the crisis, much more exciting than it really turns out to be, which can only generate frustration. Worse even, the writer lazily skips the description of the action by making the narrator pass out soon enough, thus transferring the description to the voice of Edward who calmly tells what happened after she lost consciousness. Cheat.